

## Super Delegates' Super Decision

As the race for the presidential nomination continues, the Democratic Party has become increasingly aware of, what has for the most part, been its inconsequential super delegates.

by CASSANDRA KRIEGER  
Managing Editor

Super delegates are convention delegates that are seated due to their position as party officials or office holders. Unlike the other 80% of delegates involved in the selection of party nominees super delegates are able to support any candidate they choose regardless of the popular vote. There are nearly 800 super delegates who vote in the Democratic primaries, more than 400 of these delegates have yet to pledge themselves to either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama, this does not mean that super delegates who have pledged have any obligation to follow through on their promise.

Experts have been paying particular attention to super delegates in the Democratic primary because of the extremely

close delegate count between Senator Clinton and Senator Obama. Senator Clinton, who has approximately 1,188 delegates, is falling behind Senator Obama, who has approximately 1,210, for the first time in her campaign.

Neither candidate has the necessary 2,025 delegates to seal the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Clinton's recent win in New Mexico may be an indication that the fight for the nomination is far from over. In the event that both candidates reach the convention with no clear winner, super delegates may get their chance to truly influence this historical nomination.

Lanny Davis, a former Bill Clinton aide described the institution of super delegates as "a considered decision by a liberal activist on the Democratic National Committee who believed we needed some more moderate counterpart to all of the liberal activists who were dominating in the primaries." Davis said, if given the chance, he would vote for Senator Clinton despite Obama's higher popular vote. Julian Epstein, a Democratic strategist predicts that "if there was a perception

that one candidate won the popular vote of delegates and that that decision was then overturned by a smoke-filled room of super delegates it would lead to a civil war within the party." Amy Holmes, a political analyst echoed Epstein saying it could lead to an "ex-

the-scenes they could be turned off to politics, to the Democratic party for a generation, this could be devastating."

When asked his opinion of the super delegate vote Senator, and former Democratic presidential nominee, John Kerry said, "ultimately it would be a



plosion in the Democratic Party that will probably make John McCain the President of the United States." She went on to analyze the effect of super delegates overturning a popular vote would have on youth voters saying that if the youth felt "victory snatched from them because of political maneuvering and super delegates behind-

mistake on either side whether it's Hillary Clinton or Obama for super delegates to suddenly come in and say to hell with you the people, you all voted across the country and we're going to change the outcome." The Democratic Convention will be held August 25-28, 2008 in Denver.

## Romney Backs McCain

The Republican Party was feeling the love on Thursday, February 14, Valentine's Day as formal candidate Mitt Romney

by CASSANDRA KRIEGER

Managing Editor

officially endorsed his main rival, Senator John McCain in the bid for the presidential nomination. The endorsement, a shocking development for many conservatives, brought an end to one of the fiercest

2008 presidential primary race feuds. At a news conference in Boston Mr. Romney pledged his support for McCain and asked that his delegates do the same by voting for McCain at the convention.

Despite their intense disputes in which both candidates attacked each other, Romney attacked McCain's

proposed policies on immigration while McCain accused Romney of flip-flopping, Romney decided to endorse Mc-

Cain not only "in the interest of healing" but to "unite the party for the general election against the Democrats for No-



Mitt Romney shakes hands with Senator John McCain after announcing his plans to endorse McCain in the bid for GOP presidential nomination

vember."

Romney, former Governor of Massachusetts, said he was "honored" to back McCain's

"candidacy for the presidency" and that McCain is "a man capable of leading our country in this dangerous hour." Although Romney has acknowledged significant differences between his and Senator McCain's proposed policies he did not want to "forestall the launch of a national campaign, making it easier for Senator Clinton or Obama to win" in the general election. In the event that Romney's delegates vote for McCain it would boost McCain's delegate count to over one-thousand leaving him less than one-hundred away from acquiring the nomination.

Other Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee has refused to leave the race, despite his clear deficit in numbers, until a candidate receives the 1,191 delegates needed to confirm the nomination.



## Letter from the Editor

Dear Mount Community,

Its here.

Its finally here....

This issue has been a long time coming, and it all started with a box.

In May of 2007, as the previous Editor-In-Chief Jenny Park graduated, I was appointed the new Editor-In-Chief of the Oracle, and was left with merely a box to guide my way. On the lid of the box Jenny had written Open the Box, and Think outside of It.

When I was told that I was going to be the new Editor-In-Chief I actually think I may have laughed and rejected the offer the first time that Jenny Park offered the position to me. I believed that there were more suited people for the position. I was only a freshmen at the time and a lowly copy-editor at that. However, Jenny had faith in me and obviously saw something within me that I wasn't able to see. Not everyone was happy with Jenny's decision, however, and I still face criticism about my intentions for the Oracle. I started my path in Journalism during high school because of my passion for writing and I would never want anyone to think that the writers on the Oracle Staff or myself are just doing this to put on our resumes.

You know the saying, "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong?" The Oracle staff faced everything that could go wrong last semester in waves of setbacks that delayed publication.

I would like to personally apologize for the lack of the Oracle's presence last semester, because as EIC it is ultimately my responsibility for getting issues out.

I know a few people were apprehensive and doubtful that we could even publish an issue, however, it can also be said to never underestimate a Mount St. Mary's Girl. This paper is coming out of countless hours of hard work and the Oracle's staff determination to succeed.

I would also like to thank our new advisor Valerie Gonzalez for helping us out with all of her guidance and support. Without her steadfast encouragement and ability to answer any questions we threw her way, I would not have been able to get anything done.

I leave you with a promise of plenty of future issues because as the song goes, the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Borer-Nodolf

Oracle Editor In Chief

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**THE ORACLE OFFICE IS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND WE WELCOME YOU TO STOP BY AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATED NEAR THE MAILROOM ON BRADY GROUND FLOOR. OUR HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**MONDAY: 8:00AM-10:00AM**

**TUESDAY 1:00PM-2:00PM**

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**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE ORACLE AT 310-954-4083 OR EMAIL US AT ORACLE@MSMC.LA.EDU**



# Senior Reflects on Same Sex-Education

I'm preparing to graduate from the Mount and I've been considering the benefits I've gained by attending a women's college.

As a non-nursing female student, my experiences with male

by TIFFANY BERRY

Staff Writer

students have been significantly limited. I have only had two courses with male students in them.

I've been thinking a lot about the benefits of single gender education since I read an article in Time magazine entitled "The Myth About Boys".

The article discussed the recent publications and new stories about boys lagging behind in education. The Time article shows that for all the upset over boys performance, boys are actually alright. Further, Time points out that the major-

ity of worry over boys has in fact been a backlash against girls increasing their performance.

As the mother of a boy, I appreciate the insight the Time article provided. Just because women and girls are performing better in schools doesn't mean necessarily that boys are performing any worse.

Feminism and women have been the survivors of countless attempts to discredit the movement since the beginning. Based on all the young women who believe in equality but fail to assume the feminist label, preferring to say "I'm not a feminist, but..." we can easily see that mass media's negative portrayal of the feminist is in some ways working.

Further, by turning the positive progress that women have made over the years into a negative for boys, the media is strengthening the divide between true gender equality.

The research on single-gen-

der education is still split on whether there are more benefits or drawbacks.

In my courses, the men in the class are always the first to jump up and volunteer. The professor, whether knowingly or not, tries to include them in the class in more ways than the rest (all women).

The men speak out, loudly, and tend to provide distractions throughout class. Even though I don't know why, I still have a tendency to defer answering when a male student has something to say.

On campus, many staff and faculty members do grant the men a bit more leeway in the interest of making them feel comfortable on a mainly female campus. Or so they say, but it is my belief that the extra leeway provided falls back to the problems with co-education.

Society still encourages young women to be quiet and to take up as little space as possible. The educational systems

in public and private school all follow society's model and discourage young women from reaching their full potential.

Overall it's my opinion that single gender education is beneficial, especially for young women.

However, slightly mixed single gender education can actually be worse than full co-education because of the disparity in staff & faculty treatment of the male students.

This is not to say that men have no place at Mount St. Mary's, only to point out that even in an environment dedicated to the education of women, it is evident that staff and faculty mirror society's disparate treatment by gender.

Through my own personal reflections on the treatment of students based on gender at a women's college, I hope to encourage staff and faculty members to reexamine their role in perpetuating society's mistakes.

## Nasa to Blow up Satellite:

### The facts are true the opinions are Onion style

by CASSANDRA KRIEGER

Managing Editor

National security officials announced on Thursday that a Navy cruiser will fire an anti-ballistic missile at an uncontrollable spy satellite to neutralize its impending crash to Earth.

President Bush supported the decision due to NASA's inability to predict the landing of the satellite and the dangerous levels of toxic fuels that the satellite carries.

Some experts accuse the government of having an ulterior motive in disposing of the satellite in this manner, citing the fact that larger satellites have

fallen to Earth with no damage.

"There has to be another reason behind this," said Michael Krepon, co-founder of the Henry L. Stimson Center, who further explained that the use of the Navy was clearly a way for the government to test their questionable missile defense system against a satellite.

NASA administrator Michael Griffin responded to these allegations saying that "unfortunately we have no idea where the debris from the satellite and the particularly dangerous fuel cell will land, so for the safety of all we need to shoot it down."

In the event the missile causes the satellite to break

up and hit land, the United States has issued warnings to the countries surrounding North Vietnam and China, as well as an early apology to Israel for any "misplaced landings." Supporters of the decision to shoot down the satellite point to the one-thousand pounds of hydrazine contained in the satellite, an extremely hazardous and volatile type of rocket fuel.

Many NASA scientists have explained to the Pentagon that the fuel is likely to hit the ground intact and cause a massive explosion, President Bush in response to the plan called it a terrific farewell, a "beautiful display of military fireworks



and a wonderful opportunity for the American public to collect on left over fuel."

The satellite, which had been non-responsive to NASA's base for over one year has been scheduled to be shot down in early March. Gen. James Cartwright, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, said that the missile's destruction of the satellite "has a reasonably high opportunity for success," and that the shot will take place from the Pacific Ocean. Gen. Cartwright is currently residing in France with his family and intends to return to the U.S. in mid-March.

#### The Oracle Staff

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**Mission Statement:**  
The Oracle is, first and foremost, a newspaper dedicated to the accurate presentation of the news as it affects the lives of students, faculty, staff, and administration. It is the primary forum for the exchange of ideas for and about Mount St. Mary's College. The Oracle occupies a second role as a training ground in practical journalism.



# Brotherly Love is closer than you thought



by Jade Conolee

Staff Writer

It's late at night, and you're hungry for something that will fill your stomach and keep you satisfied.

You're looking for

real food, comfort food, cheap food.

With \$10, a car, and a long night ahead, Maybe a steaming hot Philly Cheese Steak will hit the spot. Or perhaps maybe a fresh made hoagie will whet your palate. Where can you go?

Many people do not know that there is an oasis in a desert of expensive restaurants amidst the Los Angeles skyline.

Enter South Street, the home of "philly cheese steaks made with brotherly love." Inside, you'll find a set-up reminiscent of a Philadelphia sandwich shop. Condiments and peppers sit on a counter near the register, along with the soda machine (Guess what? Free refills!) Smiling cashiers take your order and then its off to the tables.

The first thing I noticed was that the tables were small. Great for

one or two people to sit down and study. Seat yourself near the front for a view of Broxton Ave, or in the middle for a view of the game. Yes, as a Philadelphia-style restaurant, the game is always playing (sometimes a bit too loudly.)

Here come the sandwiches, steaming and aromatic.

If you got the Philly Cheese Steak, you'll notice that the meat is rib eye, not market sliced.

If you got the South Street Pastrami, you'll be pleasantly surprised with the melted cheese dripping off the sandwich. All the sandwich bread materials are

shipped from Philadelphia and baked in the restaurant's ovens, giving you a fresh Philadelphia feel.

The price tag? Not bad. \$6.75 for a Philadelphia Cheese Steak, or \$8.50 for the sandwich, fries, salad, and a refillable fountain drink.

So is South Street filled with "brotherly love"? Definitely.

The sandwiches are delicious, the aura is distinctly from Philadelphia, and the prices are amazing.

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## Exchange Program brings the Mount Holly

I have a question for you—Did you know that Fontbonne University, in Saint Louis, Missouri is a sister school to Mount

by HOLLY HALFMANN

Staff Writer

St. Mary's?

I bet your answer is "No."

It's okay to be surprised, most people are surprised to learn that Mount St. Mary's College as well as five others throughout the country were founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ). It is through the CSJ Exchange Program that I was able to come here to the Mount for the Spring semester.

Hello Athenians! My name is Holly Halfmann and you can consider me your Spring special correspondent. I come to you from Saint Louis, Missouri in the

Midwest of this beautiful country. Currently, I'm a junior at Fontbonne University where I'm majoring in American Culture Studies and minoring in Communications.

I had never been to California, let alone Los Angeles and I'm finding both the Mount and Southern California to be absolutely breathtaking. For me, this opportunity is one for growth and discovery.

**"This opportunity is one for growth and discovery"**

ery. The Mount is not that different from Fontbonne, which makes me feel more comfortable in the classroom.

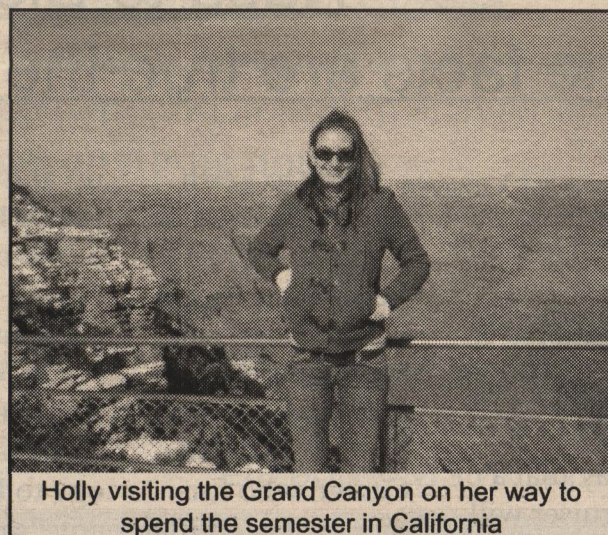
My idea of Los Angeles had always been a glamorous one. Being a Midwesterner, I have a tendency to forget that there are so many other people living in LA, besides the rich

and famous. At first when I got to the city and went through Bel-Air, Beverly Hills, and Hollywood, I was disappointed to not see any movie stars, but I've gotten over that now and no longer expect to see someone famous at every turn. At times I find this city kind of frightening.

The driving is the worst I've ever seen, I can't count the number of times people

honk their horns or honk at me, because the girl from Missouri has no idea where she is going. I just brush it off though. I also discovered that at times living in the dorm's is not what I expected.

I went from living in a room about 3 times the size with Dish Satellite TV to barely being able to pick up channels with



Holly visiting the Grand Canyon on her way to spend the semester in California

an antenna. I spent my first week or two here sick with a stomach virus, which wasn't fun. Along with that, I got to wake up to jackhammers and construction outside my window.

Thank goodness I have a cousin about 45 minutes away who lets me take refuge in his home when I find the dorm's to be lacking homey charms. I have enjoyed exploring the Grove and Farmers' Market, as well as the 3rd Street Promenade. I've been to the Pacific Ocean now, driven through Malibu and adventured in Ventura. Ex-

citingly I also had my first taste of In-N-Out and found it to be quite delicious.

This weather is gorgeous right now; however, I do long to be back at home with my familiar family and friends. I'm hoping that by the time I leave in a little less than 3 months I'll have reasons to love the Mount as much as the rest of the school does.

I hope you will welcome me as I welcome you on this journey and new chapter in my life.